

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent core useful for an absorbent article comprising a first substrate layer, said first substrate layer comprising a first surface and a second surface, said absorbent core further comprising a discontinuous layer of absorbent material, said absorbent material comprising an absorbent polymer material, said absorbent material ~~optionally~~ comprising an absorbent fibrous material and said absorbent fibrous material not representing more than about 20 weight percent of the total weight of the absorbent polymer material, said discontinuous layer of absorbent material comprising a first surface and a second surface, said absorbent core further comprising a layer of thermoplastic material, said layer of thermoplastic material comprising a first surface and a second surface wherein said second surface of said discontinuous layer of absorbent material is in at least partial contact with said first surface of said first substrate layer and wherein portions of said second surface of said layer of thermoplastic material are in direct contact with said first surface of said first substrate layer and portions of said second surface of said layer of thermoplastic material are in direct contact with said first surface of said discontinuous layer of absorbent material;  
wherein said absorbent core comprises a second substrate layer, wherein said second substrate layer comprises a first surface and a second surface; said absorbent core further comprising a second discontinuous layer of absorbent material, said second discontinuous layer of absorbent material comprising a first surface and a second surface, said absorbent core further comprising a second layer of thermoplastic material, said second layer of thermoplastic material comprising a first surface and a second surface; wherein said second surface of said second discontinuous layer of

absorbent material is in at least partial contact with said first surface of said second substrate layer and wherein portions of said second surface of said second layer of thermoplastic material are in direct contact with said first surface of said second substrate layer and portions of said second surface of said second layer of thermoplastic material are in direct contact with said first surface of said second discontinuous layer of absorbent material;

wherein said first surface of said first substrate layer faces said first surface of said second substrate layer, wherein said first and second substrate layers do not contact each other.

2. (Original) An absorbent core according to claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic material is a hot melt adhesive.
3. (Original) An absorbent core according to claim 2, wherein said thermoplastic material is fibrourised.
4. (Original) An absorbent core according to claim 1, wherein said layer of thermoplastic material comprises a net-like structure.
5. (Original) An absorbent core according to claim 1, wherein said absorbent polymer material comprises an absorbent polymer particle.
6. (Original) An absorbent core according to claim 1, wherein said absorbent polymer material is present throughout the area of said absorbent core in a basis weight of at least about 100 g/m<sup>2</sup>.
7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) An absorbent core according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said first or second substrate layers comprises a permanently hydrophilic non-woven having a surface tension of at least about 55 mN/m when being wetted with saline solution and having a liquid strike through time of less than about 5 s for a fifth gush of liquid.
9. (Previously Presented) An absorbent core according to claim 1, comprising at least one cover layer.
10. (Previously Presented) An absorbent core according to claim 9, wherein at least one of said first or second substrate layers or at least one of said cover layers comprises a permanently hydrophilic non-woven having a surface tension of at least about 55 mN/m when being wetted with saline solution and having a liquid strike through time of less than about 5 s for a fifth gush of liquid.
- 11-17 (Cancelled)